

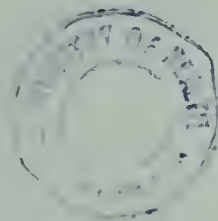
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1962.





To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Blackrod Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1962.

General Statistics.

Area in acres (31.12.62) ... ..	2392.4
Population - Census 1961 ... ..	3,600
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid 1962 ... ..	3,810
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1962 . ... ..	1,295.
Rateable Value ... ..	£34,555
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£139

Social conditions including chief industries carried  
on in the area:-

Residential in character. Industries include Carpet Mfg.  
Rayon processing and Agriculture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population mid 1962 ... ..	3,810
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<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate	84	44	40
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Live birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude Rate ... 22.3      Adjusted Rate ... 20.7

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 <u>total</u> births	23.0
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Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ... Nil

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. ... 35.3

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... 35.3

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 Total births .. 57.5

Mortality rates per 1,000 est. population:-

Total (all forms) -

Crude Rate ... .. 9.7

Adjusted Rate ... .. 11.6

Respiratory T.B. . ... Nil

Malignant neoplasms etc .. ... 1.57

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age

Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths (all forms)	23	14	37
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<u>Causes of death during 1962.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung	1		1
Other Malignant Neoplasms		4	4
Malignant Neoplasms - Breast		1	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	4		4
Coronary Disease - Angina	4		4
Other Heart Diseases	5	2	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease		1	1
Other circulatory Diseases	1	4	5
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Congenital Malformations	1		1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	1	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1		1
	—	—	—
	23	14	37
	—	—	—

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

#### Infectious Disease.

13 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, 5 of which were Measles and 4 - Scarlet Fever.

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND AGE GROUPS.

(Age period - years).

[illegible]

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(National Insurance Act, 1948).

No application received.

### Nursing Arrangements.

There is a practising Mid-Wife in the District daily, provided by the County.

### Hospital Accommodation.

For Infectious Disease - by arrangements with the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest Hospital on the List that can accept accommodation.

### Immunisation.

The Clinic at the Methodist School, Blackrod, is open every Saturday morning. The Doctor is in attendance on alternative Saturday mornings for the immunisation of children under school age, or over if necessary. Children of school age are also immunised at the School.

### Maternity Services.

49 Ante Natal Clinics were held in the course of the year at the Clinic in New Street, and 521 attendances were recorded.

### Public Health Staff.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Health Inspector who is also Surveyor. A visiting Nurse is provided by the County.

### General Health.

As in 1961 Blackrod had another year of good health marred only by seasonal respiratory cases and a few sporadic cases of childhood infections.

### Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office at Leigh, and the needs for the District are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

### Mortuary.

The Mortuary, situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the District.



## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Source of Supply:- The Urban District have their own water supply which consists of a Catchment Area of some 170 acres in extent, from which surface water and water from land springs is obtained and stored in a 20 million gallon impounding reservoir. The Catchment Area is situated in the Horwich Urban District and is mainly moorland in character. The Undertaking is adequate for the needs of the District at the present time and bulk supplies are taken by the Adlington Urban District Council and the Makerfield Water Board for the Parish of Haigh. The Distribution System is by gravity but over the past 30 years it has been necessary to boost the water pressure by pumping during periods of heavy demand. For some time now even with pumping, at certain periods of peak demand the pressure in the higher parts of the distribution system is not sufficient to maintain an adequate supply. This poor pressure is due to the main from the Reservoir to Blackrod which has been in service some 80 years now being reduced to approximately one half of the discharge capacity due to incrustation and tuberculation and there is some concern as to the structural condition of the pipe which is prone to burst due to graphization of the cast-iron pipes. A Scheme is now with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government making application for loan sanction to duplicate approximately one half of the main from the Reservoir to Blackrod in the high pressure part of its section.

14 samples of water have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination. 8 samples were taken from the distribution mains, 6 of which were satisfactory and 2 indicating low count of coliform organisms in the samples. 6 samples were taken from the feeder streams and springs supplying water to the Reservoir and these were found to have coliform organisms in the sample and one having faecal coli type 1 present.

Continuous Chlorination by Chlorine Gas is carried out to all water as it enters the distribution main. The plant is automatic in operation and dosage is regulated in relation to flow.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo-solvent action on lead.



The total number of houses with a piped supply is :-

(a)	Direct to Houses	1273
(b)	Stand Pipes	Nil
(c)	From Private Wells	1

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Treatment is carried out at two main outflows, Nightingale Farm and Scot Lane. This consists of primary settlement in retention tanks and final treatment by land irrigation. A scheme for the improvement of the sewer system and for the treatment at the Horwich U.D.C. Works has been prepared and approved by Lancashire and Mersey River Board and is now with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government awaiting their approval for loan sanction to carry out the works.

### Food Inspections.

The following types of food premises are in use in the District and these are visited at frequent intervals.

General Grocers & Provisions Dealers	19
Green Grocers and Fruiterers	2
Fish Mongers and those selling Poultry & Game	-
Meat Shops (Bakers and Purveyors of cooked and preserved meats)	2
Bakers and Confectioners	-
Fried Fish Shops	2
Shops selling sugar, confectionery, minerals, ice-cream	2
Licensed Premises, Clubs and Canteens	15

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	6
Bakers (Manufacturers of Meat Pies)	Nil	Nil

### Meat Inspection.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the District, all carcass meat being slaughtered outside the District. Visits are made frequently to the Butchers' Shops to examine the meat offered for sale.

### Food Hygiene Regulations.

Inspections have been made to premises to which the regulations apply and instructions given as required to persons employed in the shops.

### Milk and Dairies Regulations.

30 samples of milk have been taken from producer and producer retailer and submitted for analysis. All samples submitted were found free from Tubercle Bacilli. 19 of the samples were also submitted for Methylene Blue reduction Test and 18 were found satisfactory, one sample failed the test, one sample was also submitted for Brucella and was negative for Abortus.

### Scavenging of Streets.

5 The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for Class I and II Roads and undertake the scavenging of these roads. Class III and District Roads are maintained by the District Council and these are scavenged at frequent intervals and in addition a mechanised sweeper is engaged to sweep these roads at weekly intervals.

### Shops and Offices.

34 shops have been visited in connection with the Shops Act and Food Hygiene Regulations and three visits have been made to offices in connection with working conditions within the office.

### Public Cleansing.

1298 moveable dust bins were in use at the end of the year. Dust bins for domestic premises are supplied by the Council and the cost is chargeable as a rate borne service.

Refuse is collected and disposed of by direct labour. One 8 cubic yard side loading refuse collecting vehicle being used for the purpose. A Motor Driver and three loaders are regularly employed on this work and a weekly collection has been maintained over the year with the exception of two weeks during the holiday period. The refuse is being disposed of at two tips, one at Scot Lane which is a disused colliery site and at the present time a surface reservoir is being filled, the colliery shafts being filled during the year. The other tip is in Chorley Road and this is a disused mineral railway cutting which is being filled to existing ground level. The whole of the refuse is being tipped at the present time, there being no separation of waste paper, metal etc. No special arrangements are made for the collection or disposal from trade premises other than shops, the trades concerned having made their own arrangements for dealing with trade waste. There are only three pail closets left in the District and arrangements are made for collection with house refuse and disposal of by admixture with the refuse.

### Offensive Trades.

There are no premises registered in the District in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried out.

### Schools.

There are three junior and one secondary schools in the District. The sanitary accommodation at the junior schools is adequate but as they are detached from the school buildings, in the winter time the water supply for flushing arrangements is prone to freezing up and it would be of great benefit if the sanitary accommodation was attached or within the main building. The sanitary accommodation at the Secondary Modern School is satisfactory and washing facilities are adequate at all the schools.

### Bakehouses.

There are no bakehouses in use at the present time.

### Factories and Workshops.

<u>No. in District</u>		16		
Carpet Manufacturers	1		Boot and Shoe Repairs	1
Rayon Processing	1		Building Sites	3
Textile Warehouse	1		Metal Brokers	1
Joiner	1		Light Engineering	2
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2		Processing Peat Moss	1

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No. of Visits                      12

### Rodent Control.

78 premises have been visited, 3 minor infestations of rats have been treated on agricultural premises. Treatment has also been carried out at the Council Refuse Tips for infestations found in the Tip. 3 minor infestations of mice and 1 minor infestation of rats at domestic premises have been treated. The sewer system and the disposal works have also been treated during the year.

### Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Two public sanitary conveniences are provided in the District, and these are at the Blackhorse Street/Chorley Road and Manchester Road/Station Road Road Junctions.

### Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens	Nil
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1461
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil
No. of Refuse Bins	1298
No. of Houses on Water Carriage System	1264

### Housing.

The District Council have completed 2 and occupied 8 dwellings to complete the present housing scheme, and the tenants for these dwellings being transferred from unfit dwellings. 64 private houses have also been completed and occupied.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year and all previous years.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,  
Leigh Road,  
WESTHOUGHTON.  
Nr. Bolton.

3rd April, 1963.







